

RODGERS GANG DOPED IN MAIL HOLD-UP; SPLIT OVER HOSPITAL ROBBERY LOOT

Inside Story of Coups Led by Cunniffe, Czar Of Underworld, Revealed

"Honor among thieves" is an unknown phrase with Bum Rodgers's gang of dope-maddened bandits. The \$12,000 "swag" taken in the Roosevelt Hospital hold-up never reached the individual members of the desperate gang. Some one "held out"—and in a later robbery, the Baltimore hold-up, Killer Cunniffe shot dead in cold blood a pal who during their flight accused him of being the "double-crosser" in the hospital job. Carefully worked out plans to attack all the air mail landing fields in the East and Middle West simultaneously were drawn up by the gang on Rodgers's orders. Before staging this super crime outburst, that was to jar the country from end to end, the bandits daringly held up the Merck chemical plant in New Jersey in order to secure a big supply of drugs to keep up their nerve. Read how hardened crooks abandoned Bum as a bloodthirsty madman in today's sensational exposure of the workings of the gang.



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INSTALLMENT NO. 9

I severed my connection with the Bum Rodgers outfit immediately after Chapman's execution. I mean to say that I had no part in the various crimes they committed. I was still friendly with the gang, but I didn't go in on their various jobs and had no ambition to go in on them.

I had been accustomed to working with "grifters" of the old school who never saw any necessity of killing people.

This gang of dope fiends who killed without any provocation had my goat and I was "off them for life."

No Use for Killers

I've got no use for killers! I'll do what I can to stop this maniac, Bum Rodgers, and his gang. I never had any advance information on what they were going to do. It



Bum Rodgers R. R. Whittemore

was after they staged their crimes that I got "the low-down on them." I didn't know what the Baltimore job was exactly. I had heard Jimmy Murphy, alias Danco, talk about the "easy marks" in Baltimore that he and Whittemore had investigated. I didn't know the location of the "marks."

Danco said that the chief dick of Baltimore, I think his name is Burns, is a wizard and that he had a couple of coppers working under him, Tom O'Donnell and Willie Murphy, who knew more thieves than Noah Webster knew words. They were afraid of the Baltimore coppers, but they decided to sneak into the city at night, pull the job and beat it out right away. So they went to Baltimore.

Shot Policeman

About a week after their departure I read an account of the stick-up of a creamery. They got \$15,000 or \$20,000, and during the hold-up they shot a policeman in the arm. I talked with Danco about the job. He was the only member of the gang that wasn't "up against dope." He didn't like the way they worked.

world was turned back to the contributors.

The money that the gang got at Baltimore was to be used in "framing" air mail robberies. The dream of the insane Bum was about to be realized.

But dope fiends are not the most reliable people in the world. They plan many things and miff many things.

They talked about air mail robberies, but it was some time before they got down to the business of planning and executing them. While they had money they did a lot of dreaming and talking.

Not until the bank roll began to dwindle did they swing into action. They made up for lost time once they hit the trail.

Bum was talking again about "giving Uncle Sam the works." The mob was strong for "a big touch."

Never Forgot Chapman

There was more talk about avenging Chapman. They never forgot Chapple and there was talk about killing "Old Kansas Tommy" Brock. They said he hadn't done the right thing, that he should have given himself up when Chapple was first arrested.

Then came the robbery of the Roosevelt Hospital. This was Bum Rodgers's job. He located it, framed it and supervised the execution of it. Somebody "held out" on that job. I recall how they eyed each other suspiciously when the newspapers announced that they got around \$12,000. Danco talked this robbery with me.

"You got a nice touch there," I said to him. "Twelve grand isn't such a bad split."

"Twelve grand," Danco grunted. "We didn't get no twelve grand. I got to look into this matter, for I only got 250 bucks for my end. If they got twelve grand, there's more dough coming to me."

There were seven of them on the Roosevelt robbery, and twelve grand split seven ways would have

given each one of them around \$1,700. Danco thought Bum and Cunniffe had double-crossed them on the division. Chi Spud agreed with Danco.

The Western members of the mob—Chi Spud, Illinois Billy,

Danco and Scar Face Brogan—were just a little bit suspicious about the Roosevelt job being on the "up and up."

The Roosevelt job, as you will

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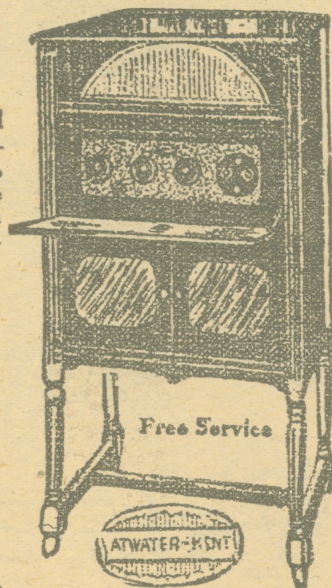
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